

RESEARCH BRIEF

No. 34-15

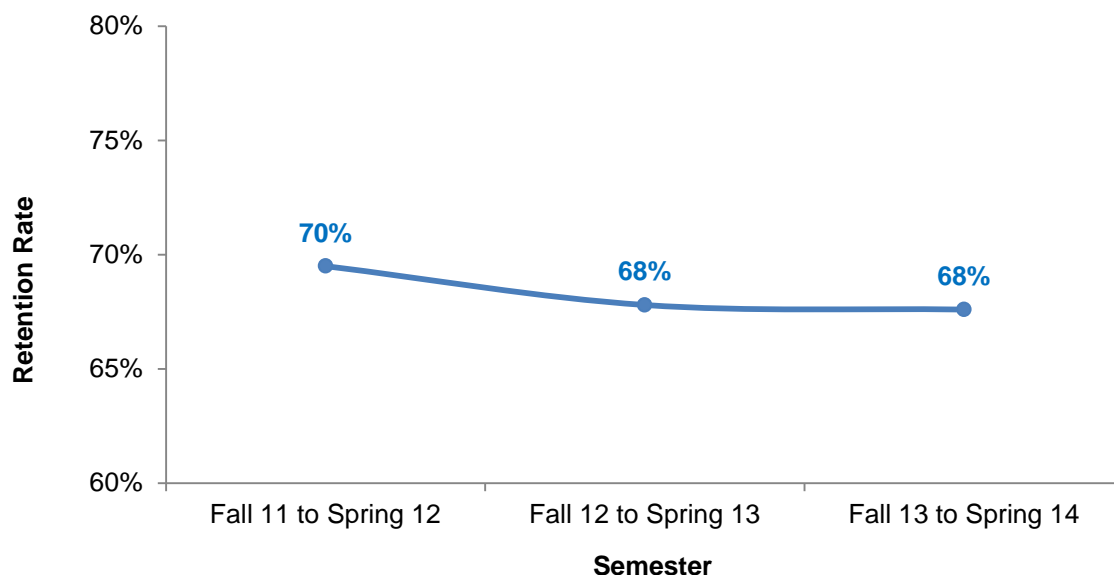
April 2015

Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for All Students and First-time to College Students: Fall 2011 through Spring 2014

This Research Brief presents Fall-to-Spring retention rates from Fall 2011 through Spring 2014 for all students and for first-time to college students. For the purposes of this Brief, “first-time to college students” are students attending college for the first time who were enrolled in a fall semester. The Fall-to-Spring retention rate is the percentage of this cohort who returned in the following spring semester. “All students” include returning, transfer, and first-time to college students who were enrolled in a fall semester. The Fall-to-Spring retention rate is the percentage of these students who returned in the following spring semester. Retention rates for each of these two categories of students are provided for the College overall and for each campus*.

Figure 1 presents College-wide Fall-to-Spring retention rates for all students from Fall 2011 through Spring 2014. As shown below, Fall-to-Spring retention rates for all students decreased from 70 to 68 percent from Spring 2012 to Spring 2013, and remained at 68 percent from Spring 2013 to Spring 2014.

**Figure 1. College-wide Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for All Students:
Fall 2011 through Spring 2014**



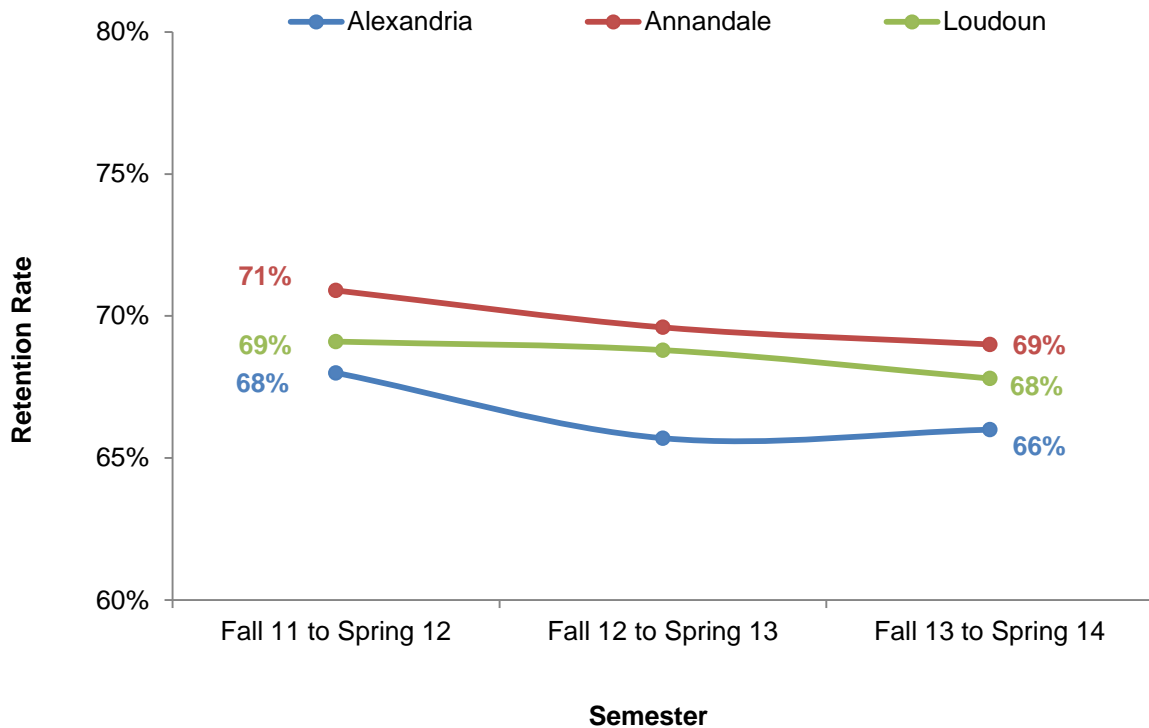
* Medical Education Campus (MEC) data include all students who indicated MEC as their home campus even if they are not placed in nursing or allied health programs.

Table 1 and Figures 2a and 2b (see next page for Figure 2b) show Fall-to-Spring retention rates for all students from Fall 2011 through Spring 2014 by campus. As shown in the table and figure, the Fall-to-Spring retention rates for all students decreased at each campus during the time period from Fall 2011 through Spring 2014.

**Table 1. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for All Students by Campus:
Fall 2011 through Spring 2014**

Campus	Fall 2011 to Spring 2012			Fall 2012 to Spring 2013			Fall 2013 to Spring 2014		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
Alexandria	11,515	7,767	67.5	11,923	7,833	65.7	11,690	7,681	65.7
Annandale	14,175	10,044	70.9	14,913	10,373	69.6	14,870	10,260	69.0
Loudoun	7,780	5,372	69.1	8,094	5,566	68.8	8,321	5,640	67.8
Manassas	6,514	4,541	69.7	6,953	4,623	66.5	7,021	4,711	67.1
Medical Education	2,655	1,924	72.5	2,430	1,721	70.8	2,342	1,696	72.4
Woodbridge	7,405	5,152	69.6	7,551	5,038	66.7	7,559	5,048	66.8
College	50,044	34,800	69.5	51,864	35,154	67.8	51,803	35,036	67.6

**Figure 2a. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for All Students by Campus
(Alexandria, Annandale, and Loudoun):
Fall 2011 through Spring 2014**



**Figure 2b. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for All Students by Campus
(Manassas, Medical Education, and Woodbridge):
Fall 2011 through Spring 2014**

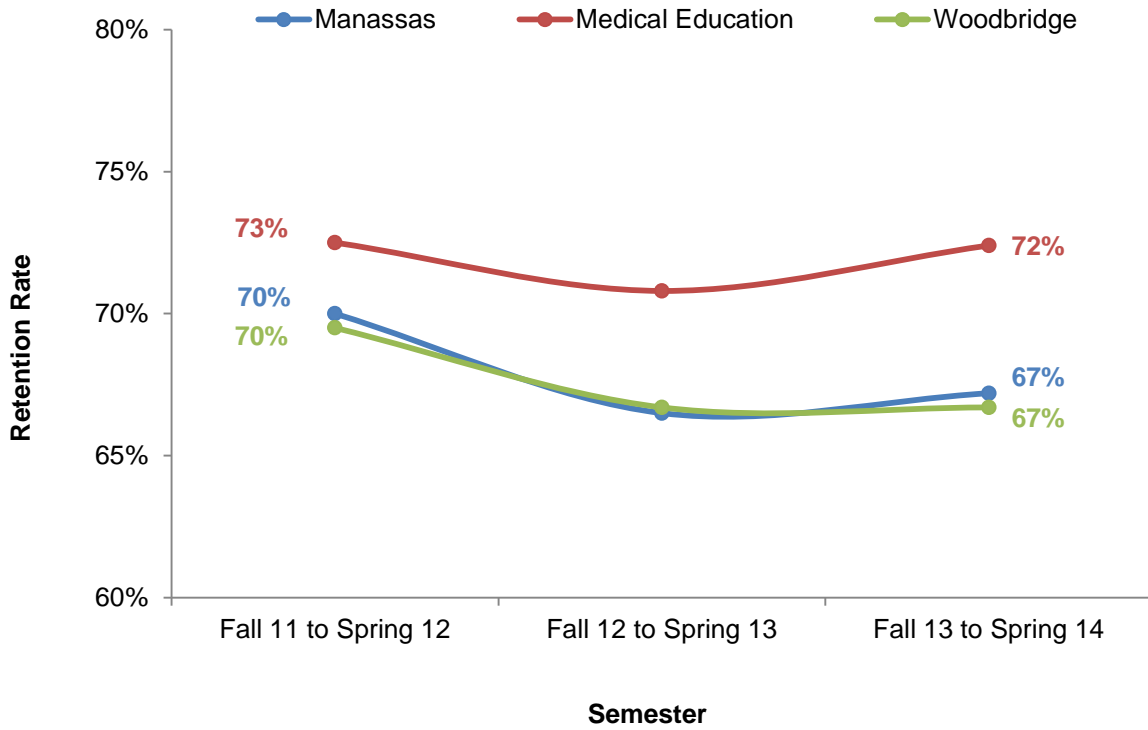


Figure 3 depicts College-wide Fall-to-Spring retention rates for first-time to college students from Fall 2011 through Spring 2014. As seen below, the Fall-to-Spring retention rate for first-time to college students decreased from 80 percent to 78 percent during this time period.

**Figure 3. College-wide Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for First-time to College Students:
Fall 2011 through Spring 2014**

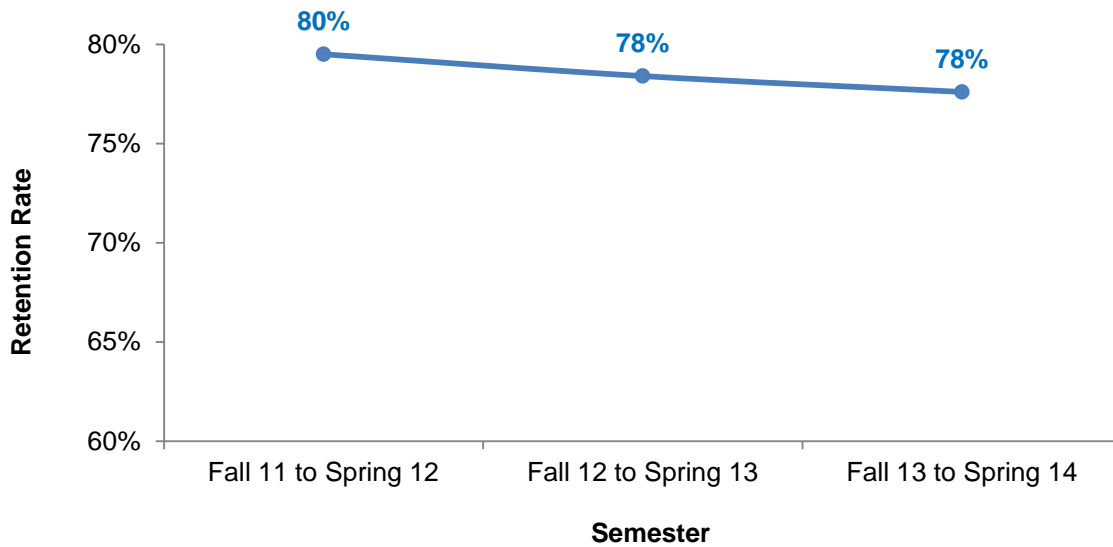


Table 2 and Figures 4a and 4b (see next page for Figure 4b) present the Fall-to-Spring retention rates for first-time to college students by campus from Fall 2011 through Spring 2014. The Fall-to-Spring retention rates for first-time to college students decreased overall for each campus during this time period.

Table 2. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for First-time to College Students by Campus: Fall 2011 through Spring 2014

Campus	Fall 2011 to Spring 2012			Fall 2012 to Spring 2013			Fall 2013 to Spring 2014		
	N	Returned		N	Returned		N	Returned	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
Alexandria	1,649	1,238	75.1	1,718	1,271	74.0	1,796	1,317	73.3
Annandale	2,413	1,993	82.6	2,687	2,177	81.0	2,858	2,317	81.1
Loudoun	1,391	1,109	79.7	1,496	1,193	79.8	1,812	1,420	78.4
Manassas	1,408	1,122	79.7	1,464	1,161	79.3	1,577	1,196	75.8
Medical Education	126	100	79.4	126	94	74.6	133	102	76.7
Woodbridge	1,346	1,063	79.0	1,397	1,073	76.8	1,481	1,146	77.4
College	8,333	6,625	79.5	8,888	6,969	78.4	9,657	7,498	77.6

Figure 4a. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for First-time to College Students by Campus (Alexandria, Annandale, and Loudoun): Fall 2011 through Spring 2014

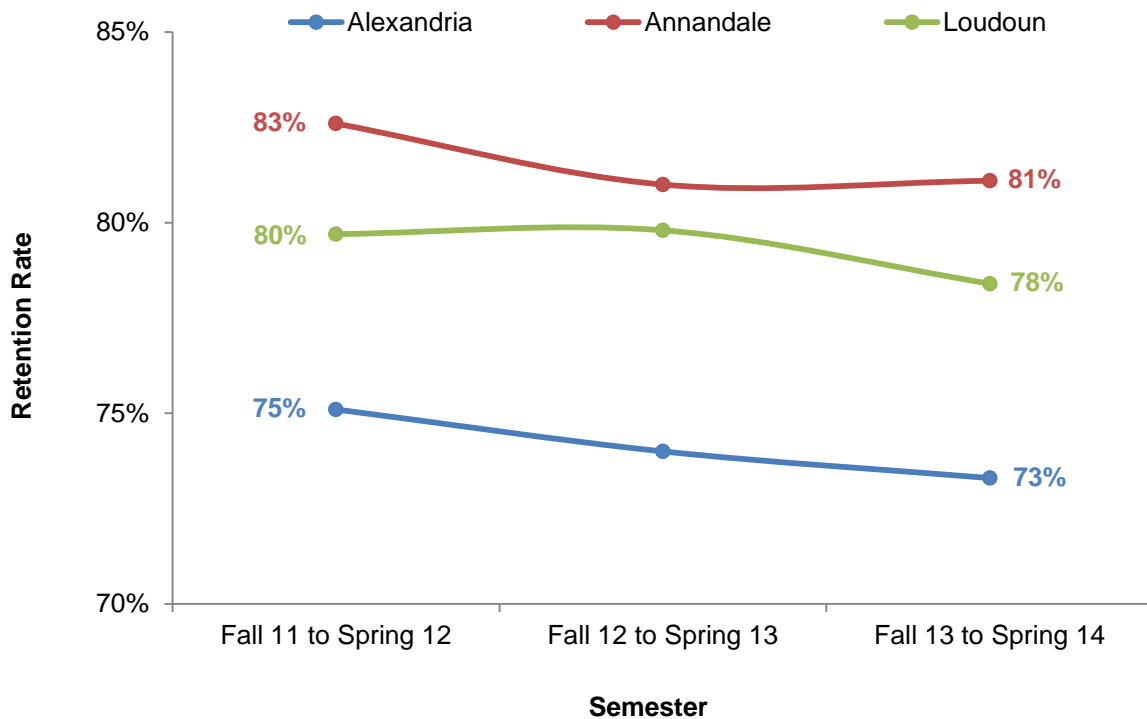
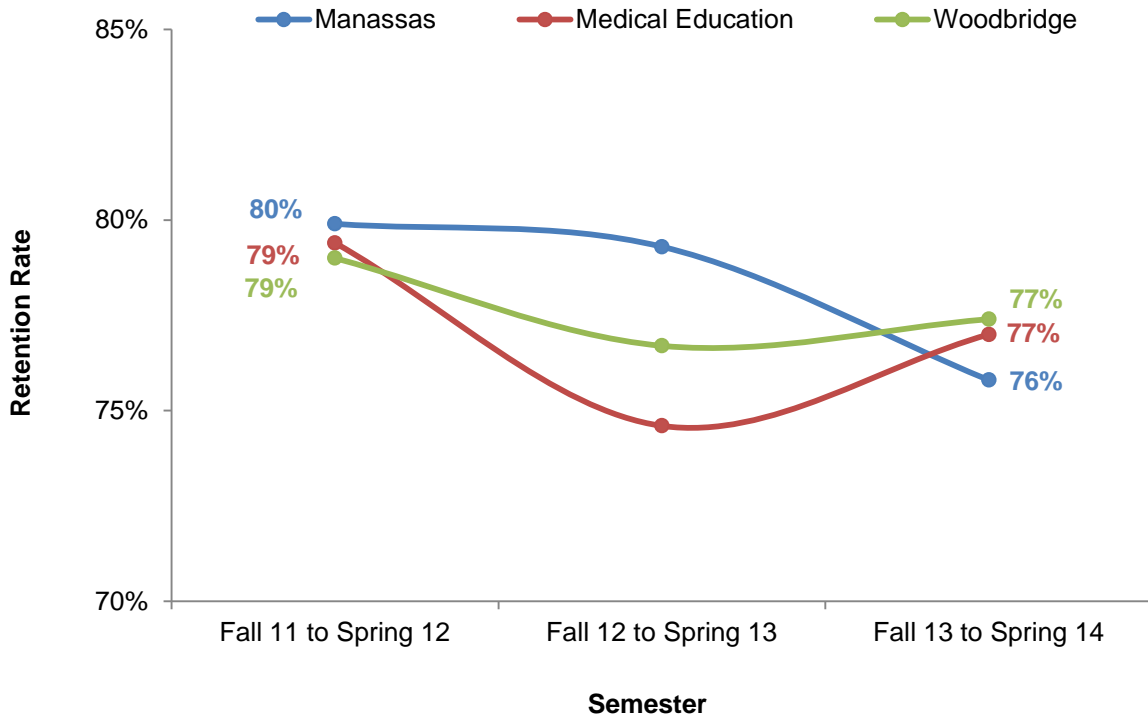


Figure 4b. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates for First-time to College Students by Campus (Manassas, Medical Education, and Woodbridge): Fall 2011 through Spring 2014



Summary of Results

- In a comparison of retention rates of first-time to college students with all students, those attending college for the first time had higher Fall-to-Spring retention rates than all students from Fall 2011 through Spring 2014.
- College-wide, Fall-to-Spring retention rates for first-time to college students decreased from Spring 2012 (80 percent) to Spring 2013 (78 percent), but remained the same from Spring 2013 to Spring 2014 (78 percent each).
- Similarly, Fall-to-Spring retention rates for all students, College-wide, decreased from Spring 2012 (70 percent) to Spring 2013 (68 percent), but remained the same from Spring 2013 to Spring 2014 (68 percent each).
- Among the campuses, during the period from Fall 2011 through Spring 2014, Fall-to-Spring retention rates for first-time to college students were highest at the Annandale Campus (81 to 83 percent). During the same time period, Fall-to-Spring retention rates for all students were highest at the Medical Education Campus (71 to 73 percent).